

# Workbench

Registered by Australia Post  
Publication No.  
PP349018/0016

r.r.p.  
\$3

Journal of Amiga Users Group Inc., GPO Box 684E Melbourne 3001 Victoria Australia



Getting to know AmigaDOS.....	2
World of Commodore.....	5
Art Expressions.....	6

Music SIG.....	9
BBS Problems.....	9
NWAUG.....	11
Calendar.....	12

# AMIGA USERS GROUP INC.

P.O. Box 684E Melbourne 3001, Victoria Australia.

## Who Are WE?

The Amiga Users Group is a not-for-profit association of people interested in the Amiga computer and related topics. We DO NOT condone software piracy. We can be reached via an answering machine at: 527 1995

## Membership

Membership of the Amiga Users Group is available for an annual fee of \$30. Membership forms are available from AUG and in this Journal. Send completed form with a cheque or money order for \$30 to the address above.

## Disk and Book Library

AUG has an extensive collection of Amiga Related Books, Magazines and Tapes. Disks from our Public Domain library are available for \$2 each on your own disks or for \$4 each on AUG supplied disks, which includes postage. Details of latest releases are printed in this Journal and a catalog disk is available.

## Member's Discounts

AUG negotiates discounts for its members on hardware, software and books. Currently, Technical Books in Swanston Street in the city offer AUG members 10% discount on computer related books, as does McGills in Elizabeth Street. Another World computer shop in Coburg, MVB Croydon and Computer Magic Moonee Ponds offer good deals while Maxwells of Abbotsford offer 10% off RRP on all software.

## The Amiga Users Group Committee

Co-ordinator	- Peter Barton	850 9250
Ass. Coordinator	- Jim Lewis	(018) 39 2099
Secretary	- Andrew Breedon	569 0632
Membership	- Jeff Kirkland	571 0078
Treasurer	- Arnie Robbins	808 0551
Meeting Chair	- Ward Horsfall	596 3443
Book Library	- Nick Diakounis	523 0953
P.D. Disk Library	- Pat Heuvel	752 9483

## NWAUG Committee (PO Box 25, Coburg 3058)

Co-ordinator	- Rohan Safstrom	326 0995
Ass. Coordinator	- Frank Lowe	326 1525
Treasurer/Mem	- Greg Rowbury	484 3909
Meeting Chair	- Hugh Leslie	370 4205
Book Library	- Darrel Butcher	(057) 83 1772
Disc Library	- Alan Cheng	380 5588

## SEAUG Committee

Co-ordinator	- Dick Bartholemew	589 5862
Ass Co-ord	- Chris Quonoe	569 9390
Secretary	- Robin Whitehead	555 4757
Treasurer/Memb	- Tom Barath	888 1304

## The Bulletin Boards

The AUG operates Bulletin Boards devoted to the Amiga. They can be accessed 24 hours a day on the numbers listed below: Parameters should be set to 8 data bits, 1 stop bit and no parity.

AmigaLink-I = 792 3918  
Ratz = 553 0305

### Amiga Central

Line 1 (up to 2400) = 499 2798  
Line 2 (9600 and above) = 499 4908  
\*\*\*\*Note these new numbers\*\*\*\*

### CLUB EVENTS

For details of club events and meeting dates, check SIG reports and the A.U.G. calendar inside the back cover.

## Workbench Contributions

Articles, papers, letters, drawings, cartoons and comments are actively sought for publication. Contributions may be sent in on disk, paper or uploaded to Amiga Central in the area set aside for this purpose. Please send your contribution in text-only, non-formatted if they are on file and remember to include your address for return of disks. Deadline for articles is the first week of the month preceding Publication. Contributions can be sent to: The Editor, AUG, PO Box 684E, Melbourne 3001.

## Copyright and Reprint Privileges

Amiga Workbench is copyright 1991 by the Amiga Users Group Inc. Articles herein that are copyrighted by individual authors or otherwise explicitly marked as having restricted reproduction rights may not be reprinted or copied without written permission from the Amiga Users Group or the authors. All other articles may be reprinted for any non-commercial purpose if accompanied by a credit line including the original author's name and the words "Reprinted from Amiga Workbench, Journal of the Amiga Users Group, PO Box 684E, Melbourne 3001".

## Advertising

The Amiga Users Group accepts commercial advertising in Amiga Workbench subject to available space. Contact the Editor or Advertising Manager for rates and conditions.

## Club Services

Amiga Central	- Gary Gajic (7pm - 9pm)	497 3949
A-link 1	- Bohdan Ferens	792 1138
Workbench	- John Rowley	527 7126
Advertising	- Paul Jenner	360 0257

## A.U.G. Help-Network

Here is a list of AUG members who have volunteered to share their knowledge/experiences with others. If you want to help and have your name listed here please contact the Editor. They are not listed in any order or priority. Please keep contacts to reasonable hours (6 - 9 pm unless otherwise noted) and remember the basis of this service - they are volunteers.

Introduction to the Amiga / Prowrite	Rudy Kohut	- 807 3911
Amiga Basic (Advanced)	John Elston	- 375 4142
Amiga; A/C & AMOS Basics	Bill Jordan	- 417 3521
C(Introductory), Professional Page	Mal Woods	- 888 8129
C (Advanced)-AZTEC	Andrew Gelme	- 645 1744
C (Advanced)-LATTICE, TeX	Eric Salter	- 853 8857
DeluxePaint Cycling, MIDI music	Norm Christian	- 798 6552
Music, Audio Sampling, MIDI	Neil Rutledge	- 555 6870
Beginners Help Line	Russ Lorback	- 802 9333
Beginners Help	John Barlow	- 551 4760
Superbase, Bridgeboard	George Wahr	- 376 6180
Amiga Art	John Barlow	- 551 4760
Graphic Arts - DPaint, Sculpt, etc	Joe Santamaria	- 383 3509
Modula-2	Peter Evans	- 584 2765

# Workbench

Number 86 August 1993



cover illustration - Frank Lowe

## Acknowledgments

### Writers

Norm Christian	Jeff Kirkland
Eric Fillisch	Jim Lewis
Michael Granat	Frank Lowe

### Illustrators

Frank Lowe

### Publishers

Editor: Jim Berry  
Layout and Design: Jim Berry  
Advertising: Paul Jenner

### Equipment

Amiga 2000  
Amiga 4000  
HP Laserjet IIIp

### Software

Pagestream 2.2

### Printer

Justin Deeley, Mithril Press

What a great year for the AMIGA! This year we AMIGA devotees have been rewarded with many new arrivals on the AMIGA scene, some of which include the A4000 the A1200 and a new version of some sort of AMIGA cd-games console?!! well maybe we will know more about that one by the time this Workbench arrives in our letterboxes.

I would like at this point, to thank on your behalf, the outgoing committee for a sterling job well done. During the time this committee has been together we have worked as one, with only the one common goal, that of ensuring greater benefits for ALL members whilst maintaining the future financial viability of the club, which has not all been smooth sailing but we are now well back on track. The support we as a committee have received from all quarters of the club has been almost overwhelming. Not the least of which has been the support from our NWAUG committee, at least two of which have been at almost every AUG committee meeting we have held.

Other members that should not go without notable mention are the workers (again from the NWAUG) who maintain and run the Amiga Central bulletin board (which has been continually upgraded this year). Also our utmost thanks must go yet again to the team of tireless workers who provide us with the Workbench every month, managing to keep themselves (and others most of the time, er oops) within deadlines and ensuring that all members are kept not only well informed of upcoming club events (when they themselves are informed) but also of any AMIGA related news, not to mention the latest on the fish library.

Whilst the club membership has not been growing these past few years the committee has been taking every step to ENSURE the longevity of OUR CLUB. Some of these changes have been very visible and obvious ie. relinquishing some space at the AUG monthly meetings, the temporary change in format of our last newsletter and some other changes not so obvious (see if you can pick them).

In order to ensure that this club maintains its level of services and benefits, new blood must be found for as many positions on the new committee as possible. It is unreasonable to expect that the same few can continue the level of commitment required to maintain this dynamic club, so please avail yourselves for, or even to the committee YOUR CLUB needs you now!

Regards,

Jim Lewis  
Asst. Coordinator, AUG

# Getting to know AmigaDOS

by Jeff Kirkland

**JEFF RETURNS** to the task of making the Amiga's operating system more accessible to the novice user. This month he shows us how to make decisions within a script file.

## Part 8

I'VE MENTIONED in earlier articles that AmigaDOS can be made to execute a series of commands automatically. This is called a script.

One of the major advantages of using an AmigaDOS script is that it is possible for the script to make decisions. To do this we use the IF command. It looks something like this:

```
IF<condition>
  <commands>
ENDIF
```

or

```
IF<condition>
  <commands>
ELSE
  <commands>
ENDIF
```

There are several options that can be used with the IF command. These are used in the <condition> part of the statement. The most used conditions are WARN and EXISTS.

In a previous installment I explained that an AmigaDOS program returns a code number when it has finished running. If it returns 0 (OK) then all went well. If it returns a number greater than or equal to 5 (WARN) then something went wrong. You can use this in a script to test if the program succeeded or failed. Here's an example using the ASK command found in the Workbench 2.x C: directory.

```
ASK Assign to Workbench 1.3 (Y/N)?
IF WARN
  EXECUTE assign_wb1.3
ENDIF
rest of program....
```

The ASK command puts a text prompt onto the screen and waits for a Y/N answer from the user. If you type "Y" then the program returns WARN so we then execute our Workbench 1.3 startup. If we entered "N" or just a <CR>, the program will return OK (0) and the script will jump to the line after the ENDIF and keep going from there.

There is no OK test in AmigaDOS. To test if the ASK program had returned OK you need to check if it's NOT WARN. This is a bit of programming logic that says if it's NOT equal to WARN then it must equal the opposite - OK.

The EXISTS can be used to check if a file or directory actually exists before we use it. The following script checks for a directory in RAM: called "MyDir" and copy files into it. If it doesn't exist it will create it.

```
IF EXISTS RAM:MyDir
  COPY SYS: RAM:MyDir ALL
ELSE
  MAKEDIR RAM:MyDir
  COPY SYS: RAM:MyDir ALL
ENDIF
```

Here we've introduced an ELSE clause to the script. If MyDir exists, the script will copy SYS: to MyDir

then it will jump to the ENDIF part. If the directory doesn't exist the script jumps to the ELSE part which creates the directory and then copies SYS: into it. We could have made the script a little smaller by using NOT to test if MyDir doesn't exist.

```
IF NOT EXISTS RAM:MyDir
  MAKEDIR RAM:MyDir
ENDIF
COPY SYS: RAM:MyDir
```

As well as IF ELSE and ENDIF there is also an ELSEIF option. This allows you to make more than one test inside the same IF/ENDIF statement.

As an example, suppose I had an Amiga with three Kickstart ROMs. When I boot my hard drive I want to check to see if I'm using 3.x, 2.x or 1.3. If I'm using 1.3, I need to assign the system to my 1.3 partition on DH1:. Here's what the script would look like. I'm using a program I wrote called TellKick which will test for the Kickstart version number and return WARN if it's less than the version I ask for.

```
TELLKICK 34
IF WARN
  EXECUTE assign_1.3
ELSE IF NOT WARN
  TELLKICK 39
  IF WARN
    EXECUTE assign_2.x
  ENDIF
ELSE
  EXECUTE assign_3.x
ENDIF
```

This is a bit complex so we'll work through it. TELLKICK 34 checks to see if the ROM is version 2.x (34). If it's less than version 34 it will return WARN and we EXECUTE the script to assign the system to my 1.3 directory. The script will then jump to the ENDIF and continues on.

If TELLKICK returns OK (i.e. it's higher than version 34) the ▶

script jumps to the ELSEIF NOT WARN line to check if it passed the test. If it did then we know it's 2.x or higher so we test if it's version 39 (3.x). If it fails (WARN) we then EXECUTE the script to assign the system to the Workbench 2.x directory.

If it's neither of the first two options then it must be Kickstart 3.x so we execute the script to assign the system to the Workbench 3.x directory. As you can see it's possible to have IF statements inside other IF statements.

IF also has options for comparing text and numbers. These are EQ (equal to), GT (greater than) and GE (greater than or equal to).

```
IF <text1> EQ <text2>
  <commands>
ENDIF
or
IF <text1> GT <text2>
  <commands>
ENDIF
```

There's no "less than" function so you have to use NOT again. NOT GE is the same as "less than" and NOT GT is the same as "less than or equal to". NOT EQ is the equivalent of "not equal to". To compare a number add the VAL option to the command.

IF <number1> NOT EQ <number2> VAL

Here's a complete list of the IF command options.

WARN	- program returns >= 5
ERROR	- program returns >= 10
FAIL	- program returns >= 20
EXISTS	- see if <filename> exists
EQ	- equal to
GT	- greater than
GE	- greater than or equal to

The IF command can be confusing to anyone who hasn't done any programming before. Take the time to re-read the article and then try to write some scripts using it. There's no better way to master a complex command than to experiment with it. ■

## A Chance To Win

**FREE  
MEMBERSHIP  
!!**

Sign up a friend for New Membership in the A.U.G. and you will EACH get a FREE Chocklotto ticket immediately, and have a chance to win FREE Membership for both.

To Be drawn at the August A.G.M.

Available at A.U.G. all meetings, or contact the membership officer



### Self Serve AMIGA SOFTWARE

**\$2** disk included  
Over 2000 PD titles

GVP A1200 SCSI, 4 MB RAM, 33 MHz	68882	\$925
GVP A1230 4 MB RAM, 40 MHz	68030 & 68882	\$1195
GVP G-LOCK with SCALA MM-200		\$1140
GVP DSS 8 bit sound sampler		\$99
Power Copy Version 3		\$90
14k4 bps Fax/Data Modem, 2 years warranty		\$595
88 MB Syquest SCSI removable Hard Drive		\$645
88 MB Cartridges for above Syquest drive		\$200
A1200 120 MB 2.5" Conner Hard Drive		\$625

We also handle all of your PC requirements !

**PCM Computer Enterprises Pty. Ltd.**  
Shop 9, Elonera Rd., Noble Park (03) 791 6264  
Service, repairs and upgrades (03) 701 0343  
Fax (03) 701 0077

All prices include sales tax. Prices subject to change without notice.

## FOR SALE

Amiga 500 computer with :  
1084S 14" colour monitor,  
A520 Video Adaptor,  
A1011 External Disk Drive,  
A590 Hard Drive  
V1.3 DOS, Workbench etc.  
Extras include - PageSetter  
Desktop Publishing software,  
Real-time clock, joystick etc.

\$1500. The Lot, will not separate  
Phone Claudio - 3882378



MVB's Pledge to our OpalVision Customers:  
 ✓ THE BEST SERVICE  
 ✓ THE BEST SUPPORT  
 ✓ THE BEST PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE  
 "We Guarantee It!"

Basic Overview:

### OpalVision MOTHERBOARD:

A true 24-Bit Frame buffer & display device with 16.8 Million colours available for every pixel & a maximum resolution of 768x540. An internal card that suits A2000, A3000, A4000 family of Amiga's. It's powerful VLSI graphics co-processor enables stencil modes, a host of transition effects. The board's state-of-the-art design allows smooth fading of pictures, Colour cycling effects, & smooth, double buffered 24Bit animation. Motherboard includes: Opalpaint (32Bit Paint Package), Opal Presents, & Opal Animation Utilities. Optional Video-Processor, Switcher & TBC available soon.

(Package deals available)

### OpalVision VIDEO-PROCESSOR:

> Due Soon!

### OpalVision VIDEO-SUITE:

Due Later

Please call for more info!

Here's just some of the **HUGE** range of software already compatible with OpalVision:  
 Art Department, Aladdin 4D, Calagari 24, Imagine, Image FX, ImageMaster, MorphPlus, Real 3D V2.....

Call to arrange a DEMO TODAY!

\*Graphics Tablets Available \$CALL

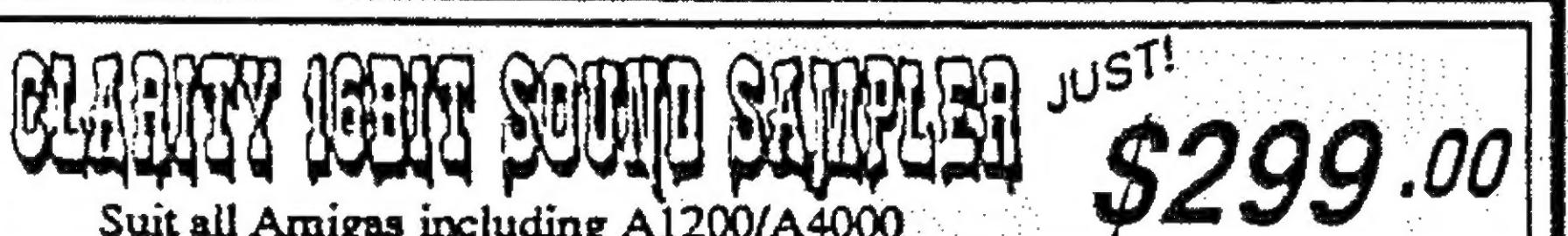


### UMAX COLOUR FLAT BED SCANNER

600DPI 24Bits per pixel colour flatbed scanner  
 (Giving 16.8 Million Colours). Legal Size.  
 Includes SCSI Cable, Ideal for OpalVision Etc.....

Call to arrange a DEMO TODAY!

Call For more information!



Anything not listed, Please Call us.....

**MVB**

**Computer Supplies**  
 Dedicated to the Amiga & its Customers!

"The AMIGA Specialists!"

AUTHORISED  
 Commodore  
 DEALER

REPAIRS DONE TO AMIGA EQUIPMENT

Melway Ref: Page 51 A8

✉ 506 Dorset Road,  
 Croydon, Victoria, 3136.

☎ Ph: (03) 725 6255

✉ Fax: (03) 725 6766

E & OE

\* WE DON'T JUST SELL AMIGA'S WE USE THEM,  
 THIS ADVERTISEMENT WAS PRODUCED ENTIRELY ON AN AMIGA COMPUTER!

\* Prices Subject to change without Notice

### AMIGA SOFTWARE

AMOS 3D	\$ 88.00	Image FX	(OVC)	\$ 399.00
AMOS Professional	\$159.00	ImageMaster Pro V9.50	(OVC)	\$ CALL
AMOS Professional Compiler	\$ 79.95	Imagine 2 PAL	(OVC)	\$279.00
ATalk III	\$ 59.95	Infofile		\$ 50.00
Aladdin 4D	(OVC)	Intro Cad Plus		\$ 84.95
Ami-Back 2.0	\$ 67.95	KARA Anim Fonts 4		\$ 57.50
Ami-Back Plus Tools	\$119.95	KARA Anim Fonts 5		\$ 57.50
Ami-Back Tools	\$ 69.95	KARA Fonts Headlines 2		\$ 69.95
Amiga Vision Professional	\$ 59.95	KARA Head Line Fonts 3		\$ 74.95
Anim Workshop	\$ 74.95	KARA Head Line Fonts 4		\$ 74.95
Art Department Conversion Pack	\$ 84.95	KARA Star Fields		\$ 59.95
Art Department Epson Drivers	\$179.00	Kind Words 3		\$119.95
Art Department Pro 23	(OVC)	Mac To Dos		\$135.00
Art Department Pro Control	\$135.00	Mapmaster Suit Imagine		\$ 69.95
Art Department Sharp JX100	\$135.00	Maxi Plan 4		\$151.95
Art Department Tools	\$ NEW	Mini Office		\$124.95
Art Expression	\$249.00	Morph Plus	(OVC)	\$275.00
Barn & Pipes Creativity Kit	\$ 69.95	Morphus for Imagine		\$109.95
Barn & Pipes MultiMedia Kit	\$ 59.95	Newtek Media Station		\$150.00
Barn & Pipes Pro Studio Kit	\$ 69.95	No Virus		\$ 29.95
Barn & Pipes Professional II	\$379.00	PC-Tasic		\$ 49.95
BoardMaster	\$ 97.50	Pagesetter V3		\$ 89.95
Brilliance	?	PageStream HotLinks V1.1		\$139.95
Broadcast Fonts 3D	\$155.00	PageStream Font Classic		\$199.00
Broadcast Fonts 3D Caligari 2	\$155.00	PageStream Font Newsletter		\$114.95
Broadcast Fonts 3D Lightwave	\$155.00	PageStream Font Pack 1		\$ 79.95
Broadcast Tiler 2	\$349.00	PageStream V2.2 & 47 Fonts		\$289.00
Broadcast Tiler 2 Hi-Res	\$429.00	Pascal High Speed		\$185.00
Broadcast Tiler Font Pack 2	\$159.95	PatchMeister (Barn & Pipes)		\$ 94.95
Buddy System AmigaDos V2.04	\$ 64.95	Pelican Press		\$ 94.95
Buddy System Deluxe Paint IV	\$ 76.95	Pixel 3D Professional		\$150.00
Buddy System Imagine	\$ 64.95	Playimation		\$399.00
Buddy System Pagestream	\$ 59.95	Power Copy V3		\$ 91.95
C-Net V2.6	\$119.00	Power Packer Professional V4		\$ 37.50
CDTV Case O/T Cautious Condor	\$ 54.95	PrintMaster Plus		\$ 66.95
CDTV Classic Cookbook	\$ 29.95	ProWrite 3.3		\$ 94.95
CDTV Fantastic Voyage	\$ 52.50	Pro Fonts Vol 1 (Suit Pro-Write)		\$ 35.95
CDTV NASA the 25th Year	\$ 29.95	Pro Fonts Vol 2 (Suit Pro-Write)		\$ 35.95
CDTV Sherlock Holmes	\$ 74.95	Pro Page V4 & Pro Draw Bundle		\$349.00
CDTV Snoopy	\$ 29.95	Professional Calc V2 AGA		\$179.00
CDTV The Connoisseur Art	\$ 52.50	Professional Page 3.0		\$ 99.00
Calagari 24	(OVC)	Professional Page V4		\$179.00
Calculus	\$ 59.95	Proper Grammer II		\$ 84.95
Can Do V2.0	\$199.00	Quarterback Tools Deluxe		\$119.95
Can Do Pro Pak 1	\$ 35.00	Quarterback V5.02		\$ 66.95
Cinemorph	\$149.00	QuickWrite		\$ 49.95
Commodore Release V2.1 SiWare	\$ 99.95	Real 3D V2	(OVC)	\$799.00
Contact V2.0	\$ 74.00	SAS C V6 Dev System		\$419.00
Cross Dos V5.0 / Cross PC	\$ 59.95	Scala 500		\$129.00
Cycleman (Suit Imagine)	\$ 64.95	Scala MM210		\$399.00
Cyclemuscles (Suit Imagine)	\$159.95	Scapemaster V2.0		\$ 39.95
Cygnus Ed Professional V3.5	\$ 99.00	Scapemaster V3.0		\$ 74.95
Deluxe Paint 4.1	\$164.95	Scenery Animator V4	(OVC)	\$ 89.95
Deluxe Paint 4.5 AGA	\$221.95	SoftClipart Animals		\$ 74.95
Design Works	\$ 75.00	SoftClipart Classic		\$ 69.95
Directory Opus V4	\$104.95	SoftClipart Collectors		\$ 77.50
Distant Suns V4.2	\$ 94.95	SoftClipart People		\$ 69.95
Doctor Ami	\$ 57.95	SoftFaces Vol 1, 2, 3, 4 (ea)		\$ 94.95
Dos to Dos	\$ 54.95	Super Deck Jet Drivers V2		\$ 57.50
Easy AMOS	\$ 84.95	Super Jam V1.1		\$145.00
Electric Thesaurus	\$ 56.95	Superbase Personal II		\$ 89.95
Essence for Imagine	\$ 74.95	Superbase Pro 4 V1.3		\$295.00
Final Copy II (Australian Version)	\$169.00	Take 2		\$109.95
Fontasia (300 Compugraphic Fonts)	\$ 75.00	TV Paint, Retina, IV.		\$ CALL
Fred Fish CDTV	\$ 79.95	Triple Play Plus (Barn & Pipes)		\$349.00
Giga Mem V2	\$145.00	True Print 24		\$ 89.95
Helm	\$185.00	TypeSmith		\$199.00
Hisoft Dev Pack 3	\$122.95	Video Director		\$199.00
Home Office Kit Deluxe,-Includes:		Virtual Reality Studio V2		\$ 99.95
Maxi-Plan, K/Words3, Infofile	\$185.00	Visionaire		\$129.95
Hyperbook	\$ 99.95	Vista Pro 3	(OVC)	\$ 94.95
Hypercache Pro	\$ 54.95	Wordworth V2		\$169.00
		Your Family Tree		\$ 79.95

\*Please note Prices with \$CALL were unknown at the time of publication.

Please call for current prices.

(OVC) Denotes OpalVision Compatibility



## world of commodore AMIGA

DARLING HARBOUR, SYDNEY  
 AUSTRALIA • JULY 2-4, 1993

Michael Granat in Melbourne reports  
 on Commodore's recent exhibition in  
 Sydney  
 (briefed by our man on-the-spot Arnie  
 Robbins)

Warm, sunny weather, beautiful  
 scenery and delicious pasta nearby,  
 plus three days of the latest in  
 mainly Amiga computing.

Why on Earth was I a thousand  
 kilometres closer to the Antarctic, in  
 Melbourne, when the World Of  
 Commodore was on? Certainly not  
 for the two degrees Celsius drizzly  
 mornings.

I should have been at the Darling  
 Harbour Exhibition Centre, where  
 fifty-nine exhibitors were competing  
 for the attention and investment of  
 the computing public.

For a weekend and a bit, Darling  
 Harbour became an example of the  
 free enterprise system at work. With  
 so many rivals in one room, the  
 forces of competition took over.

Many of the show special prices  
 (on brand new equipment in the box)  
 were almost unbelievably low. For  
 example:

Amiga 600 computer (floppy  
 drive only model) \$379

Amiga A-570 CD-ROM drive  
 (suits A500 only) @ \$170

Amiga 1200 (without hard  
 disk drive) \$700

Amiga 1200 HD (40 mega-  
 byte IDE drive) \$900

Commodore CDTV (with  
 remote control) \$399

Microbotics VXL-30 (68030  
 EC accelerator board. No Memory  
 Management Unit, Math Co-  
 processor or on-board memory)  
 \$260

clearly demonstrated that Amiga  
 owns the high ground in Multi-  
 Everything, with Amiga Multi-bit,  
 multi-million colour, multitasking,  
 multi-media.

Multi-media demonstrations  
 showed how nothing else that is  
 claimed to simultaneously handle  
 interactive multi-media, video  
 graphics and audio sampling can  
 touch Amiga on a price/performance  
 basis.

Amiga Virtual Reality was also on  
 show. Those of you who floated  
 into the future with Amiga VR at a  
 recent AUG meeting will realize the  
 effect that it had on the crowds.

Daily seminars were held on  
 Multimedia Video, Word Processing  
 Made Easy, Amiga Basic Blitzed,  
 IBM Compatible Software (by  
 Microsoft - believe it or not) and  
 CD-ROM Technology.

The exhibitors' stands were  
 generally large and impressive and  
 WOC '93 was apparently very  
 professional in its presentation and  
 coordination - more so than the last  
 WOC.

Day One (Friday July 2) was very  
 busy. Day Two (the 3rd) was slow  
 due to public transport problems and  
 the last day started that way for the  
 same reason (four train lines out of  
 action) but picked up for a good  
 finish with a substantial crowd.

Picture - Frank Lowe



# Art Expressions

or How to get  
Tassie mentioned  
in Workbench

by Eric Fillisch

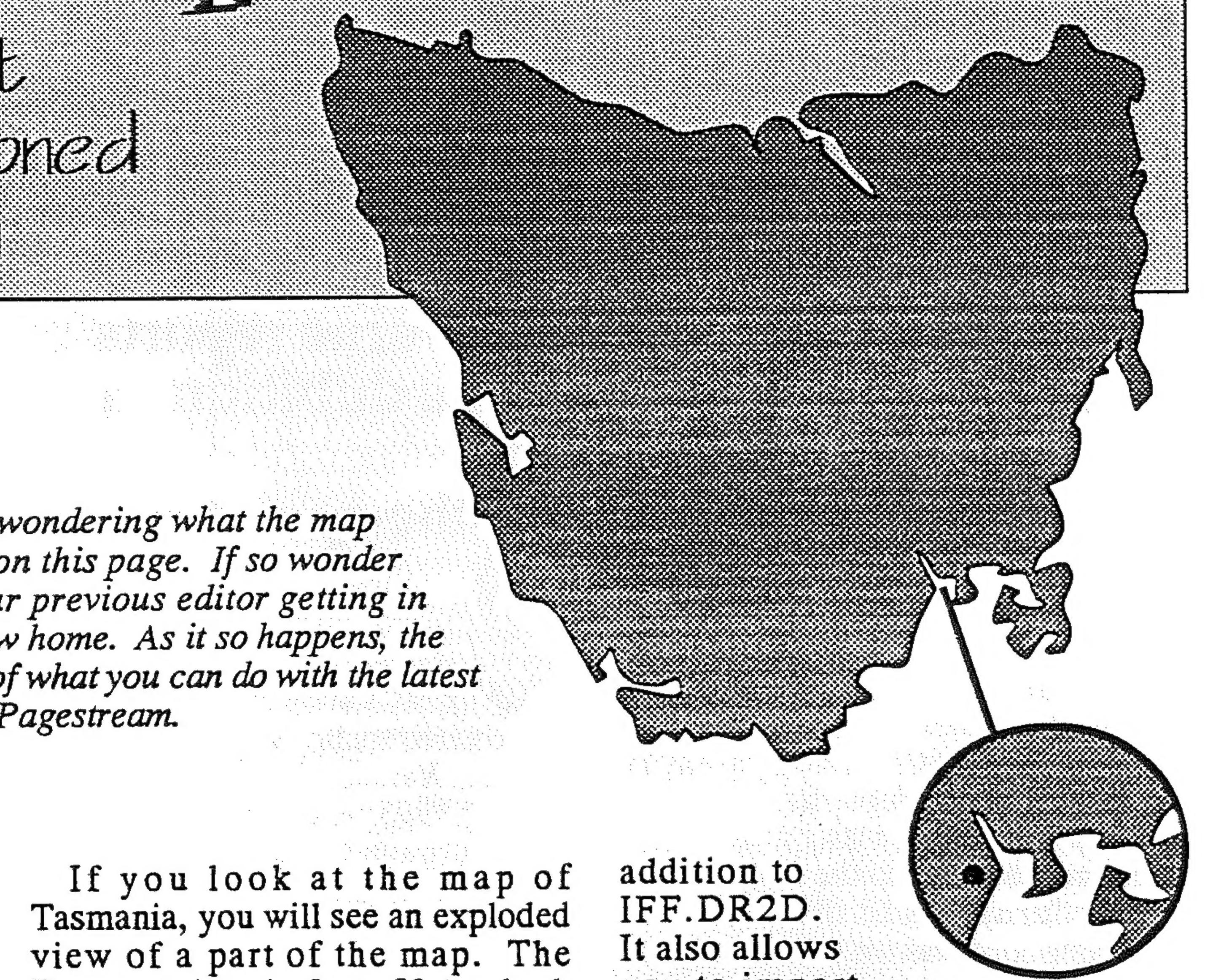
**Y**OU ARE PROBABLY wondering what the map of Tasmania is doing on this page. If so wonder no more! It's just your previous editor getting in some advertising for his new home. As it so happens, the map is used as an example of what you can do with the latest offering from the makers of Pagestream.

Most of you would know by now that there are two basic ways of drawing pictures on a computer.

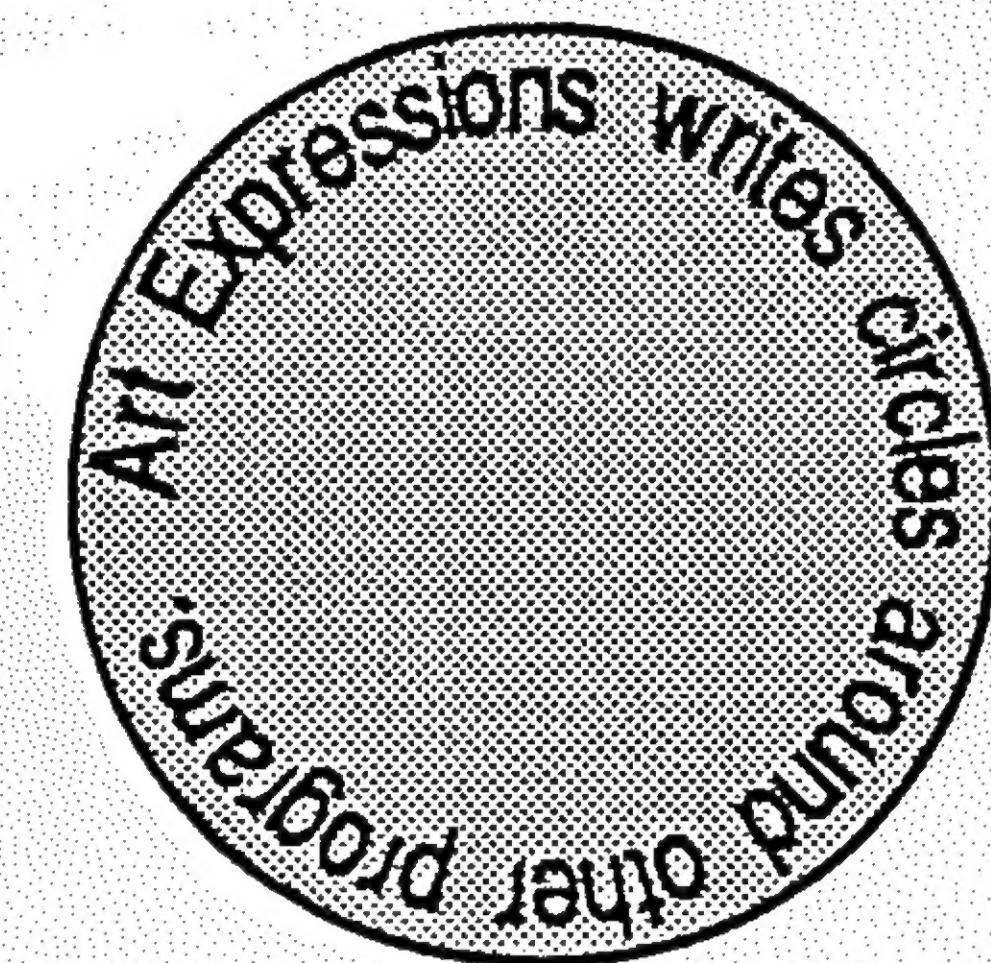
The first, and by far the most commonly used are bitmap pictures. Bitmaps (IFF.ILBM on Amiga) are usually used where the picture is going to be displayed on a monitor using the same display resolution as the original drawing. Bitmaps are fairly easy to work with as they consist of what they sound like, a map of bits (in this case the bits are dots of colour). Since bitmaps describe each dot individually they take up a fair amount of room.

A second way to draw pictures is to tell the computer how to draw a picture, instead of where to draw each dot. This system is also used on the Amiga, IFF.DR2D being Commodore's standard. However there are a few more standards used. Amongst them Aegis Draw and EPS (Encapsulated Post Script). One advantage of using vector type drawing systems such as these, is that they take up less room. Equally important is the fact that they can be stretched or shrunk without loss of resolution.

Eric is the former editor of Workbench, who, banished to the Island state, continues to assist the magazine as a writer.



If you look at the map of Tasmania, you will see an exploded view of a part of the map. The Derwent river in fact. If you look carefully you will notice that the lines used to draw the blowup are the same thickness and condition as



those of the main map. If the same had been tried using a bitmap picture, the blowup would show a series of squares drawn in the direction of the line. This occurs because the grid of dots making up the picture is actually enlarged.

Anyway back to the subject. Art Expressions is the latest in a range of vector drawing programs available for the Amiga. What makes it special are a combination of a number of features. One of the most impressive is the ability to access a variety of drawing formats, amongst them Art Expressions and Adobe Illustrator 88 EPS formats in

addition to IFF.DR2D. It also allows you to import Aegis Draw files and Soft Logik have even gone to the extent of reverse engineering Pro Draw Clip and supplying a conversion program for these. Soft Logik promise to keep adding import modules as file format specifications become available. Going by their track record with Pagestream it is a sure bet that they will.

Art Expression allows you to edit drawing sections in two modes, basically a macro mode where you draw and then manipulate the entire drawing and a micro mode where you can edit the individual points and paths of a particular item. The combination of the two modes of drawing and the tools available make it a formidable program. However as usual with Soft-Logik programs the user interface is very easy to comprehend once you are familiar with the functions.

In addition to Art Expressions you get BME1.1 (Bit Map Editor) which includes the trace facility (Hotlinks Edition 1.0 did not have trace) and more importantly to me it comes with PFB & AFM files for the 35 standard Postscript fonts. I have ►

been trying to get Zapf Dingbats for about a year now!

The easiest way to explain some more of the Art Expressions features is to run you through what was used to achieve the Tassie map.

First thing is naturally to draw the main map. Sounds like you either spend a fair bit of money to buy a digitiser or go mad and spend hours trying to trace the map manually! Of course there has to be an easier way. In this case it was a simple matter to magnify Tasmania and then save the picture as a bitmap using Drawmap4.0 by Brian Brown. Drawmap4.0 is available from the Fred Fish collection and is invaluable for things like this. Of course just using the bitmap as it was would have been pointless, so the next step was to convert the map into IFF.DR2D format. A quick trace using BME and the basic artwork is completed.

Step two consisted of magnifying the section of the map incorporating the Derwent River area. This was simply a matter of copying the map and enlarging the whole thing whilst constraining the aspect ratio (using

shift) to prevent the area looking elongated in one direction. In order to save space the second map was then edited in micro mode to allow me to delete the areas not required. After this the line between the edges of the Derwent was changed into a curve to allow me to fill in the colour without adding yet another object.

Lastly, to tidy up the extract and put that pretty circle around it I had to mask out the area I still didn't want. This involves making a blob with a circular hole in the middle which I could then colour white without obscuring the bit I wanted. This was a matter of drawing the blob and circle and then choosing to merge paths. The resultant object was given a white fill which when placed in the correct position in the stack masks out unwanted bits.

To finish off the drawing was now a simple matter of adding the Circle itself, the pointer and the dot for Hobart. All of these were performed using the basic tools available from the selection bar.

As you can see, there seems to be a fair bit involved to produce what looks like a simple drawing.

However the effect that it produces makes it well worthwhile. In addition to the drawing tools, Art Expressions has an abundance of things you can do to make text look better. Most of these involve changing the text into graphics and allow you then to further manipulate the resultant graphics if you so wish.

In closing I would like to say that as usual Soft-Logik have put together a brilliant piece of software that has one of the easier to use user interfaces around.

Art Expressions costs US\$140.00 AUS\$210.00 (including postage), after taking advantage of the upgrade offer from Soft-Logik. ■

**Annual General Meeting**  
of the  
Amiga Users Group  
Incorporated will be held  
at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday  
15th August, 1993  
at Holmesglen Conference  
Centre, Chadstone

## COMPUTA MAGIC PTY LTD

44 PASCOE VALE ROAD, MOONEE PONDS, VIC, 3039.  
PHONE (03) 326-0133 FAX (03) 370-8352

### ELECTRONIC DESIGN

WE ARE THE ONLY DEALER LICENCED BY  
ELECTRONIC DESIGN TO DO WARRANTY  
IN AUSTRALIA, BUT ONLY ON EQUIPMENT  
BOUGHT FROM COMPUTA MAGIC.

PAL GENLOCK NOW ONLY \$ 649.00  
Y/C GENLOCK NOW ONLY \$ 949.00  
VIDEO CONVERTOR \$ 398.00  
FRAMESTORE \$ 749.00  
FRAME MACHINE \$ 1,349.00  
SIRIUS GENLOCK \$ 1,598.00

### COMING SOON

DKB 3128 - UP TO 128 MB OF 32 BIT RAM  
ON YOUR A3000/A4000 PRICE TO BE  
ADVISED.

DKB BATTDISK - 2 MB OF BATTERY  
BACKED RAM FOR A2000/3000/4000  
START UP YOUR SYSTEM FROM RAM.

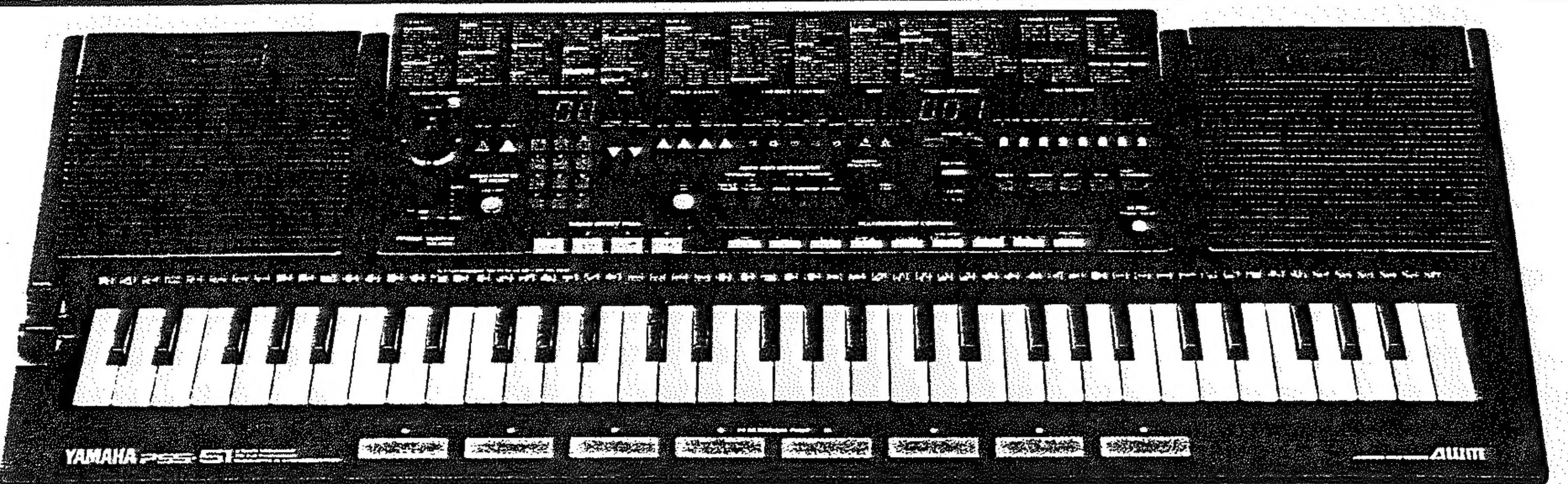
### AUGUST SPECIAL

(WHILE STOCKS LAST)  
AMIGA A1200HD PLUS 1084 MONITOR  
PLUS ELECTRONIC DESIGN Y/C GENLOCK,  
PLUS DELUXE VIDEO III

\$ 2200.00, SAVE \$233.00 (CASH ONLY)  
A1200 HARD DRIVES  
CALL FOR SPECIAL AUG PRICING ON  
SEAGATE 85 MB, 120 MB, AND NOW 210 MB.  
UPGRADE CABLES AVAILABLE  
AUG CARD NEEDED FOR ALL SPECIALS

### SPECIALS

3.5 EXTERNAL FLOPPY DRIVE \$ 139.00  
QUARTERBACK 5.0.3 \$ 65.00 (CASH)  
PROWRITE 3.3 \$ 99.00 (CASH)  
PROPAGE 3 WITH 10 DISKS OF  
GRAPHICS \$ 119.00 (CASH)  
GVP DSS8 \$ 119.00 (CASH)



**PSS-51**

AUIM MIDI STEREO

**YAMAHA**

~~\$499~~ - LIMITED QUANTITY NOW ONLY **\$295.**

(sale price for AUG members .... BE QUICK !!)

**PIANOS  
PLUS**

**583 0590**  
2 STATION ROAD  
CHELTENHAM, 3192.

*Software Buyers Service*  
P.O. BOX 486  
Box Hill Victoria 3128  
Fax (03) 808-8308 Phone (03) 808-8308

**OpalVision**  
Seeing is Believing

**NEC CDROM Drives**  
complete from **\$675.00**

**Video Backup System**

**\$145.00**

Australian Distributor  
Dealer Enquiries Welcome

**More - More - More - CALL 808-8308 for info & Price**

Newest Software  
Available  
Call for Best Prices

**SAS "C" V6.x \$395.00**

Over \$100 = Free Delivery E. & O.E.

**SuperBase 4 V1.3 In Stock !!**

**PC-Task V2.03 here NOW \$50.00**

**Hard Drives**

2 1/2" IDE to 209Mb  
3 1/2" IDE to 525Mb  
3 1/2" SCSI to 2.1Gb  
5 1/4" SCSI-2 to 2.9Gb  
SCSI Tape Backup Units

**Memory**

From World of Commodore  
**Special Pricing !!!**

Arexx CookBook with disks  
SuperBase Personal 2

**T**HE JULY SIG, held at Pianos Plus, Cheltenham, was the best we have ever had. We had such a good attendance - sixteen members and three visitors.

Perhaps as a result of the advertisement last month offering the Yamaha PSS-51 for \$299 (bolstered by my review?), a number of members bought what was obviously a bargain too good to miss.

No fewer than ten members at the SIG were proud new owners, and I believe there were many others who had bought but did not attend. There may still be limited stocks - see the repeat ad in this issue.

With so many members having the same keyboard, great possibilities open up. We will be able to swap data dumps and files, with no need to edit. A series of PSS-51 orientation nights might be useful - if you are interested please advise me, so that arrangements may be made if the response is sufficient.

You will recall that a few months ago I relinquished the job of coordinator and Allan Mallows took it on for 3 months - thanks Allan. I came back into the picture last month because I saw the opportunity of our members taking advantage of this bargain, and persuaded Pianos Plus to (a) order stocks (b) advertise in Workbench (c) hold the SIG in their shop and (d) promote AUG. I am extremely gratified that this worked out so well for everybody.

As Pianos Plus planned to do a promotion in Southland that same week, I borrowed the club's A500 and



*Co-ordinator - Norm Christian*

combined it with an AUG membership promotion, involving a slideshow, brochures, and a Bars & Pipes demo on the Friday. This was a marvellous opportunity to "show the flag". I thank Darcey How, owner of Pianos Plus, for the opportunity.

At the SIG on the Monday evening, I continued the Bars & Pipes demo from where I left off the previous day at Holmesglen. We are still looking for

someone to take over the Co-ordinator's position, so please give it some thought. It would be a pity if the SIG folded just when things are looking so bright.

I would appreciate feedback from members as to what they would like to see or do in future SIGs, and offers of venues on a one-off basis would be welcome. Pending reorganisation, the next SIG will be held at Keysborough, 7.30 pm on Monday, 16th August. Be sure to bring blank disks, as there will be plenty of good files available, especially for those new PSS-51 owners.

Accommodation is limited, so please phone 798-6552 well beforehand to reserve a seat. If anyone can assist by being Co-ordinator, even on a trial basis, or would allow their home to be used for a meeting, please let me know.

## AMIGA COMES TO SOUTHLAND



*Norm Christian demonstrating the Amiga/Yamaha music combination at the Pianos Plus stand at Southland. The A500 was there for a week, running continuous slideshows, including a promotion for AUG. AUG leaflets were also distributed. Great publicity for us!*

### Administration

- Gary Gajic

### Assistant SYSOPS

Files - Simon Shead

Files - Chris Hames

### Membership - Frank Lowe (Access)

General - George Wahr

If you have problems in any of these areas, please leave an Email message to the appropriate person.

Please remember that all club services are run by volunteers who devote of their spare time. So please be patient when things do go wrong, but keep up the feedback that everyone is encouraged to provide when things go amiss.

We thank Software Buyers Service for help with getting the new hard drive for the BBS.

## BBS PROBLEMS

by  
Frank  
Lowe

Amiga Central is one of the main services that the Amiga Users Group provides. In June problems began mounting up. First was a power supply failure, followed numerous crashes cutting down user access. The power supply fault was repaired, but intermittent hard drive faults made for more headaches.

Amiga Central's main hard drive space was made up mostly of aging ST-506 type units, controlled by an A2090a. Each time the BBS went down, much time was spent recovering data to rectify the problem. Because of the importance members

place on the BBS, it was decided to replace the old ST-506 units with a new, reliable, high capacity SCSI hard drive. Since an A2091a was already installed, the A2090a was removed. This new SCSI controller will allow more frequent backup of data to a tape streamer and a more reliable BBS.

By the end of July three SCSI hard drives will be fitted, to give approximately 380 meg of space. And by the time you read this, Amiga Central will be back on track, with ongoing improvements to benefit all users.

The system personnel structure of Amiga Central is as follows:

Did you miss 'World of Commodore' in Sydney?

GASP!

Did you want one of the huge software and hardware discounts on offer there?

YES!

Did you want to see the latest and greatest in Amiga hardware and software?

PLEASE!

Then come to the N.W.A.U.G.



**Sunday, 31st October 1993.**

All the big names will be there including  
**OPALVISION.**

WOW!

Fantastic Door Prize!  
Seminars - from Beginner to Advanced.

AMAZING!

Low entry price!

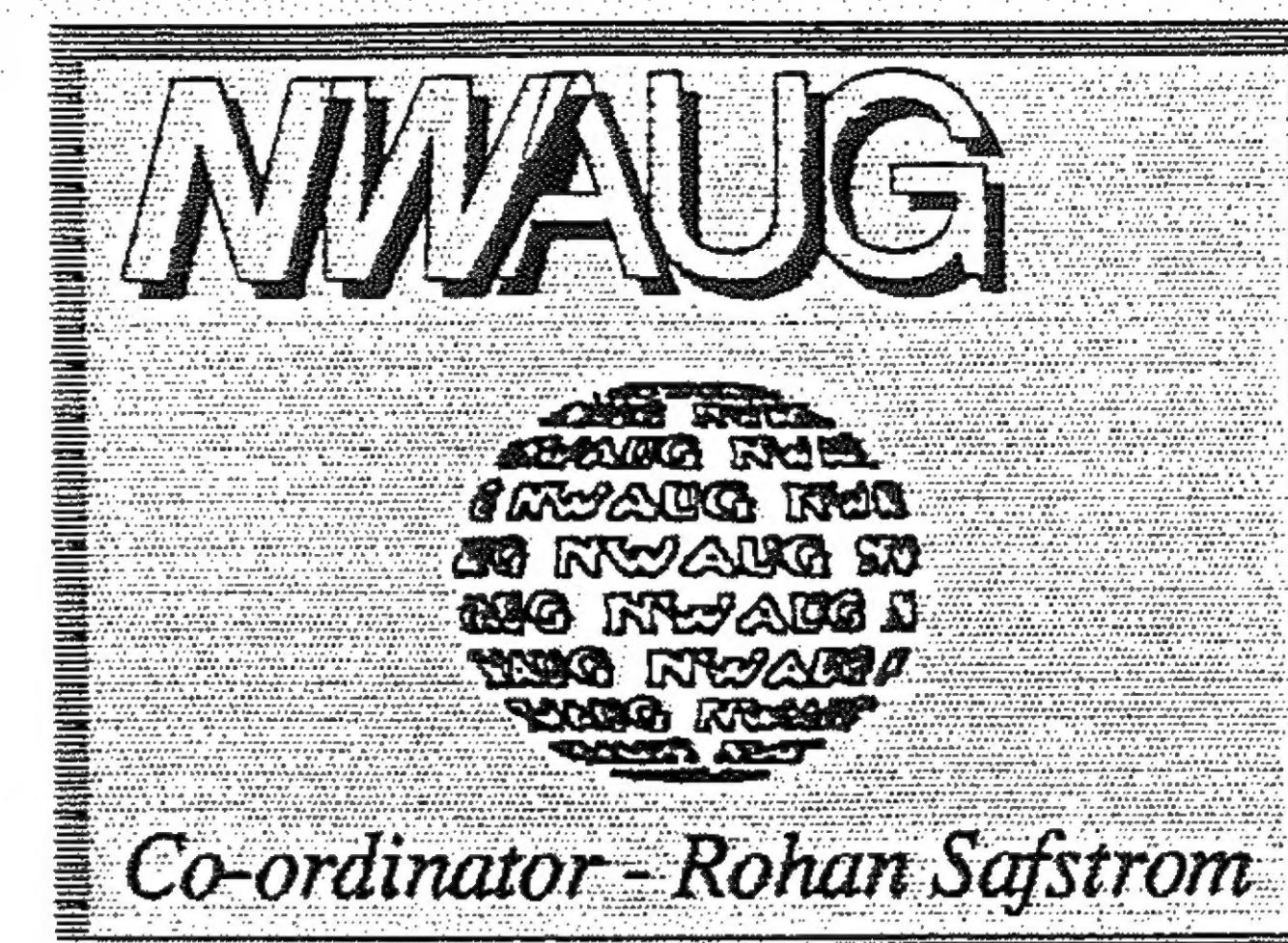
Moonee Ponds Community Centre,  
Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds.

Workbench

**A**S MOST PEOPLE will be aware the club's elections will be held this month. NWAUG will have theirs on the 18th, which will be the Wednesday after the AUG elections. This means the meeting will initially consist of electing a new committee, then we'll continue the meeting with the new committee.

The first meeting in July featured a report on WORLD OF COMMODORE and a demo of the Video Backup System from Software Buyers Service, which was on sale at WOC. Simon let us look at the new 105 meg removable media hard drive as well as some quick animations. If you haven't turned up to a meeting lately you've been missing all this great stuff.

The WOC was a big event for July. I saw many familiar faces, from club meetings, looking for a great bargain and seeing at first hand new Amiga hardware and software. TV Graphics were showing some fantastic computer based animations as well as their video controller software. Sigmacom were selling external SCSI CDROM drives, with



Co-ordinator - Rohan Safstrom

software, for \$399. The Emplant board was being showed off by AmiTech. Inovatronics were selling Directory OPUS for \$89. Opal Tech were showing off the new Opal hardware and dazzled us with the new software. Power Peripherals were showing all the great products they support. Alchemy and Software Buyers Service were doing great deals on 68030 accelerators, audio digitizers, mod packs, game packs, and hard drives, Video Backup Systems, Pro-Net and Pro-Board. Don Quixote were selling CDTVs at \$399 by the end of the third day as well as showing their 3D game VR Slingshot. Brashs and Harvey

Norman were there in a big way, with A1200 HD going for about \$850. The A570, CDROM drive for the A500, was being sold for \$185. ACAR, Amazing Computing and the new Amiga DownUnder magazines were there.

Commodore were set up at the front, with dual virtual reality machines on one side and computers on the other. In the middle was Commodore's front man for WOC, Pixie. He had done a great job entertaining the crowd over the three days. This is just some of what happened at WOC. Start saving now for next year.

The BBS had been a bit temperamental over the previous month, but by the time you read this everything will be working fine. The main culprit was hardware, more specifically the old ST-506 hard drives. Your patience, while this problem is resolved, is appreciated by the committee and Gary the sysop.

Keep tuned for another great Amiga year.

Best Regards  
Frank Lowe Asst. Coordinator

### Amiga Users Group Incorporated

## Financial Statement

1-Aug-92 to 31-July-93

Ledger	Account	Balance		Expenses	
1 Aug 92		\$ 4123.80		WorkBench	\$ 8218.00
1 Sept 92	+\$987.24	5111.04		Printing & WB Disk	4698.41
1 Oct 92	- 44.06	5066.98		Postage & Bags	
1 Nov 92	- 377.46	4689.52		Meeting Rooms	
1 Dec 92	- 758.53	3930.99		Room Hire 3 Venues	5687.05
1 Jan 93	- 761.62	3169.37		BBS & AUG Info Phones	
1 Feb 93	- 293.25	2876.12		Telephone 5 lines total	2673.85
1 Mar 93	- 562.16	2313.96		Repairs & ADS Charges	593.00
1 Apr 93	- 776.02	1537.94		Book Library	741.40
1 May 93	- 287.51	1250.39		Insurance	332.75
1 June 93	- 849.55	400.88		Virtual Reality Machine	250.00
1 July 93	+\$1758.88	2159.76		Misc.	909.03
1 Aug 93	+ 127.95	2287.71			
			Total Income		
			Memberships, Door Charge, WB ads, Chocklotto, PD disks, Auction proceeds etc.		\$ 24,103.49
				Total Expenses	22,253.36
				Total Income	
					Net Loss 1-8-92 to 31-7-93 1850.13

# AMIGA Calendar

Sunday	Aug 15	Holmesglen Meeting
Tuesday	Aug 17	Art SIG
Wednesday	Aug 18	NWAUG Meeting
Wednesday	Sep 1	NWAUG Meeting
Friday	Sep 3	Deadline for Copy. <i>October Workbench</i>
Tuesday	Sep 14	SEAUG Meeting
Wednesday	Sep 15	NWAUG Meeting
Sunday	Sep 19	Holmesglen Meeting
Monday	Sep 20	Music SIG
Tuesday	Sep 21	Art SIG
Friday	Oct 1	Deadline for Copy. <i>November Workbench</i>
Wednesday	Oct 6	NWAUG Meeting
Tuesday	Oct 12	SEAUG Meeting
Sunday	Oct 17	Holmesglen Meeting
Monday	Oct 18	Music SIG
Tuesday	Oct 19	Art SIG
Wednesday	Oct 20	NWAUG Meeting
Sunday	Oct 31	NWAUG Amiga Expo
Wednesday	Nov 3	NWAUG Meeting
Friday	Nov 5	Deadline for Copy. <i>December Workbench</i>
Tuesday	Nov 9	SEAUG Meeting
Tuesday	Nov 16	Art SIG
Wednesday	Nov 17	NWAUG Meeting
Sunday	Nov 21	Holmesglen Meeting

Holmesglen AUG meetings are held on the the third Sunday of each month at 2.00 p.m. Doors open at 1.00 p.m. The venue is the Conference centre at Holmesglen T.A.F.E. College on the corner of Warrigal Road and Batesford Road, Holmesglen (Melways Map 69 reference F1).

North West AUG meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday from 7.30 p.m. on the first floor of the Essendon community Centre, corner of Mt.Alexander Road and Pascoe Vale Road, Essendon (Melways Map 28 reference J7).

South East AUG meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7.00 p.m. in the Cheltenham Hall, corner of Nepean Highway and Charman Road, Cheltenham (Melways Map 86 reference H1).

Art SIG meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (N.B. this is NOT always the Tuesday following the Holmesglen meeting!! The venue may vary, so check the Art SIG report in this issue for the location of the next meeting.

If you are arranging (or know of any) forthcoming meetings, demonstrations, lectures or other events that would interest readers, please let us have the details so that we can publicise them here. Country members unable to attend Metropolitan meetings are encouraged to use this calendar for local events.

## Holmesglen

The July meeting was an eventful one, especially as it marked my first go at chairing the meeting (Ward was having a birthday).

After the usual announcements and club news we saw a video from ASDG showing some of the amazing video effects achievable with their software. It ran for only about five minutes but some amazing footage was squeezed into that short period of time.

Frank Lowe demonstrated the Video Backup System. This is a hardware/software combination that allows you to back up your hard drive to video tape. A four hour VHS tape can hold up to 200mb of data so it is a great boon for hard drive owners. A video (taken by Frank) of the World of Commodore show in Sydney was shown.

Chocklotto made another appearance and once we get the last of the bugs out of the software that draws the numbers it should become an integral part of future meetings.

After the break Norm Christian gave us a demonstration of the features that make Bars and Pipes such a popular package for Amiga MIDI buffs. We hope to be able to get him back to show us the improvements made to version 2 when he gets it.

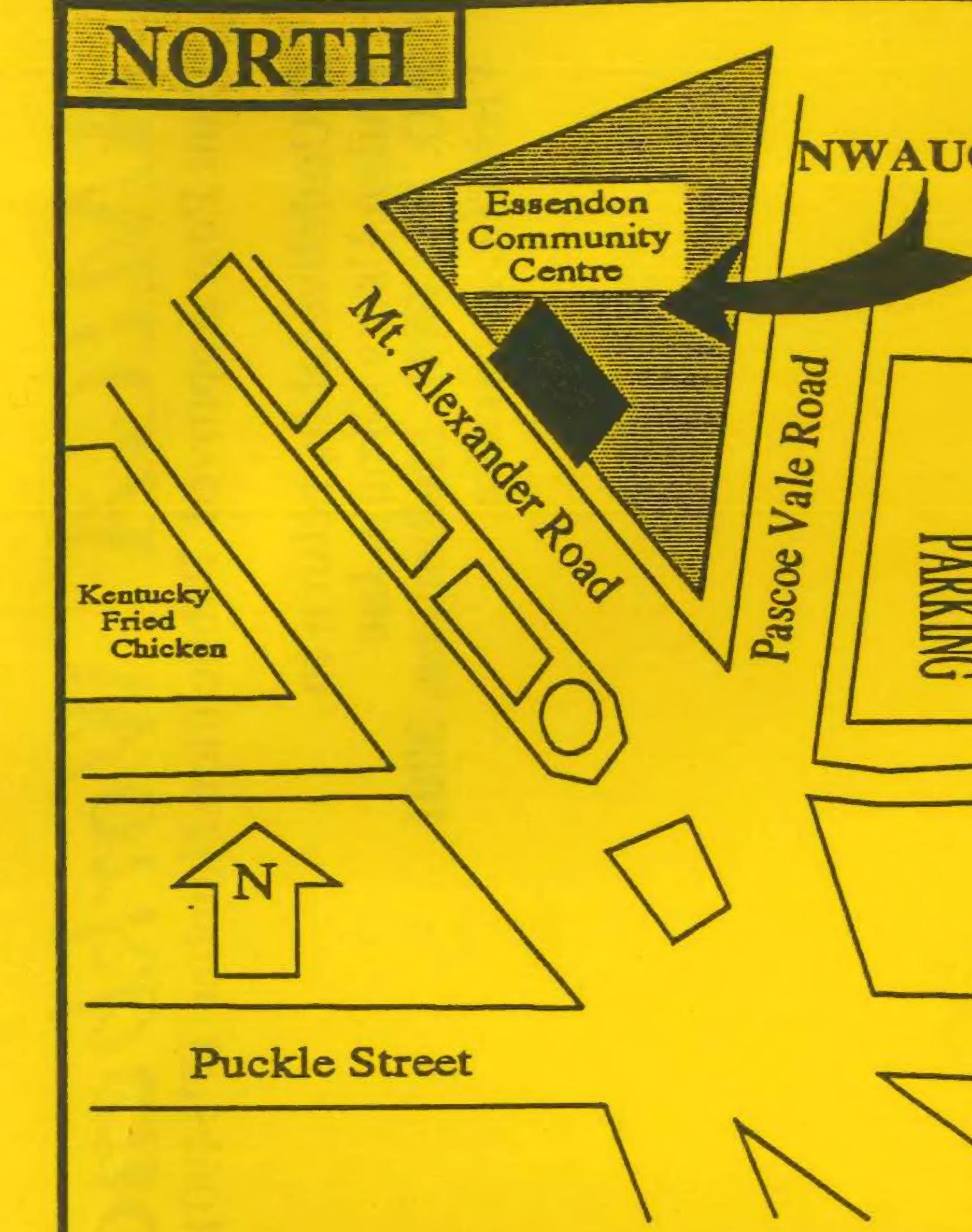
Don't forget that the next meeting is the AGM and committee election. If you think that you can help to make the AUG bigger and better over the next twelve months, don't just sit there taking about it - come along to the AGM and nominate yourself for a position.

See you next meeting....

Jeff Kirkland

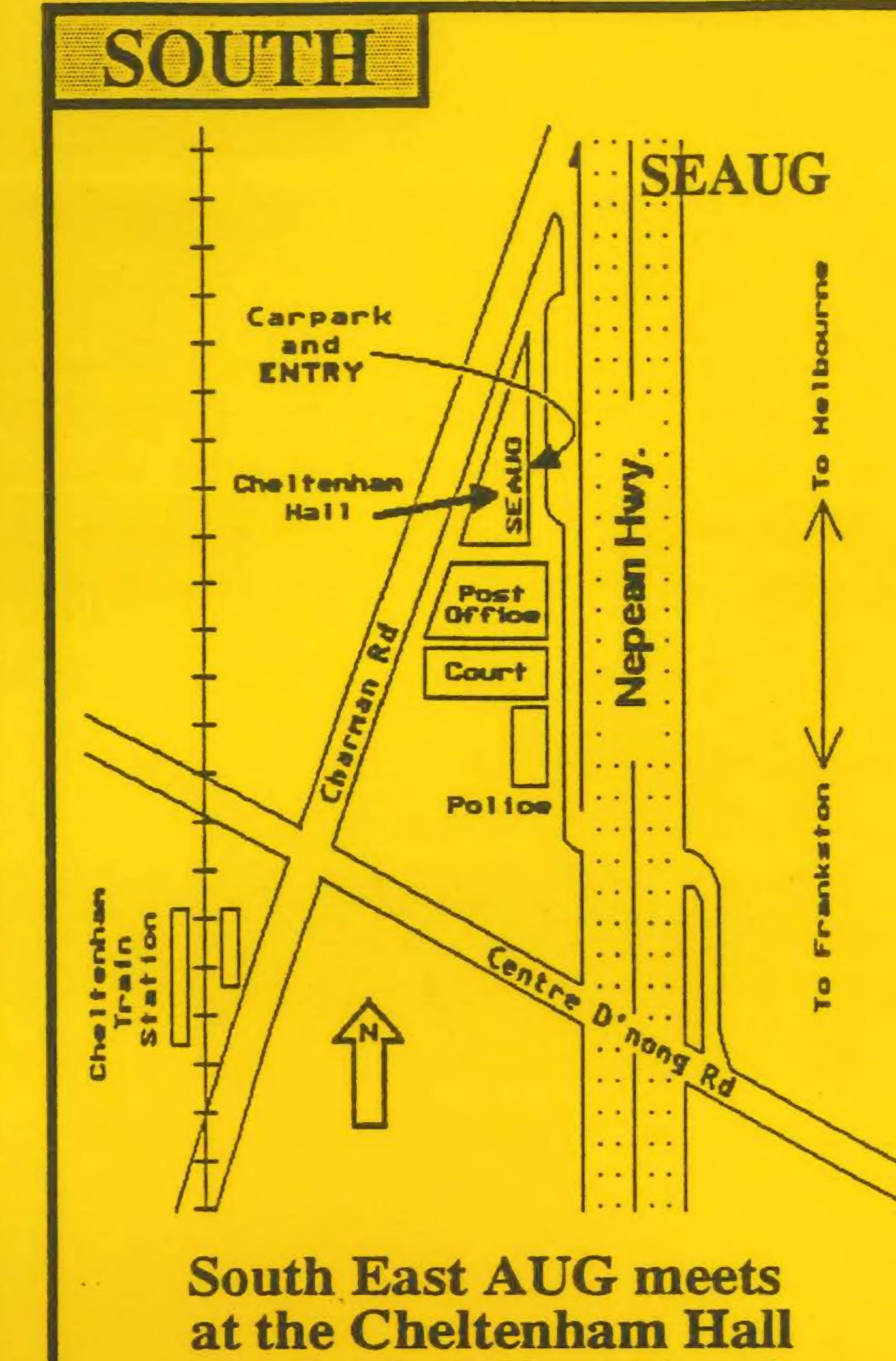
## New Joining Fee

Starting in September new & lapsed members will have to pay a one-off \$5.00 joining fee in addition to the \$30.00 yearly subscription. This fee will be introduced as an alternative to increasing the annual fee in order to cope with rising administration costs.



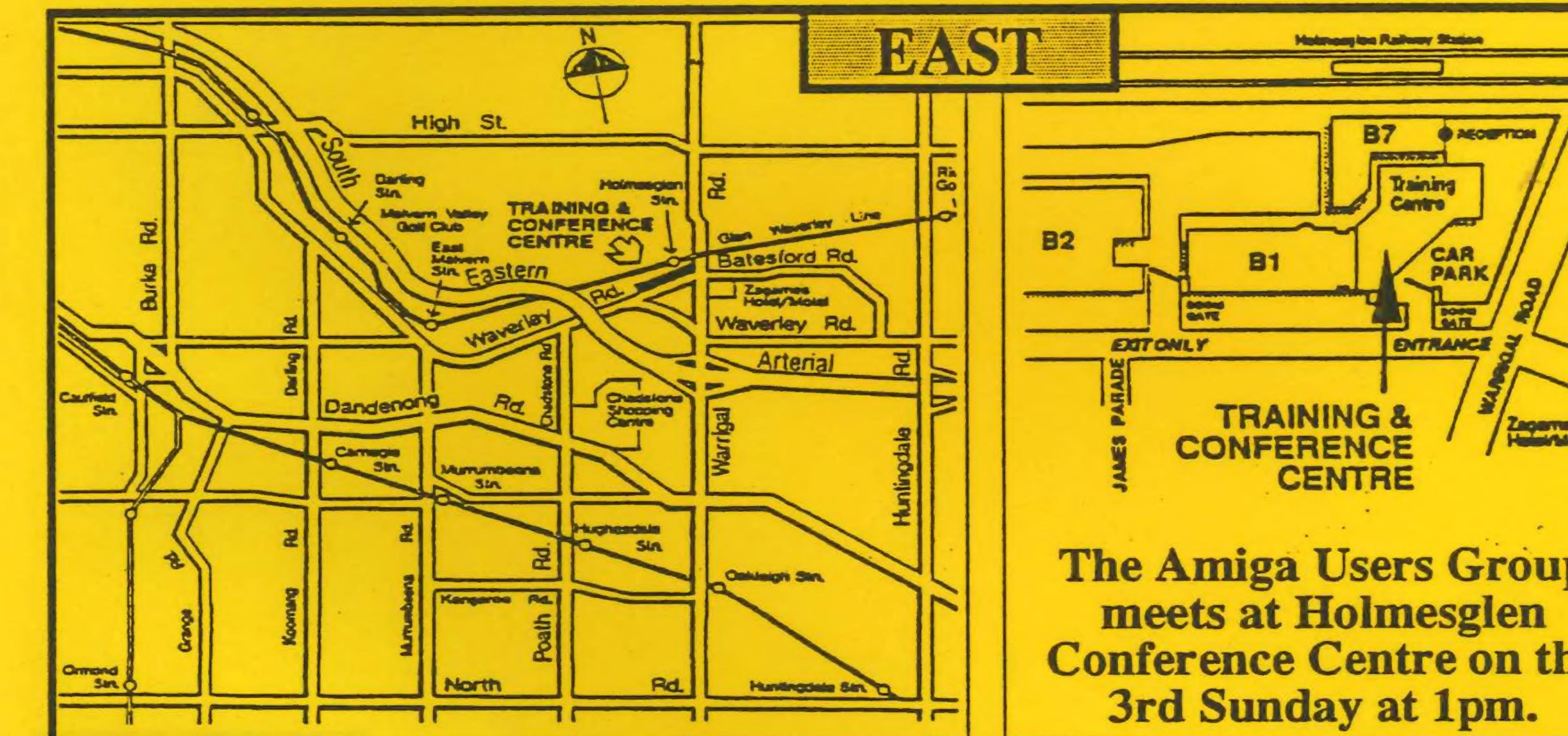
North West AUG meets on the first floor of the Essendon Community Centre every second Monday from 7.30 pm.

Melway Map 28 Reference - J7



South East AUG meets at the Cheltenham Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7.00 pm.

Melway Map 86 Reference - H1



The Amiga Users Group meets at Holmesglen Conference Centre on the 3rd Sunday at 1pm.

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE AMIGA USERS GROUP INC.

### Membership Is \$30 per year.

Send your cheque to: Amiga Users Group Inc., PO Box 684E, Melbourne 3001

Details on this side are optional

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Which Model Amiga \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ STD Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you hear about AUG: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If admitted as a member, I agree to abide by the rules of the Association for the time being in force

Which group do you attend Mostly  
e.g., Holmesglen, NWAUG, SEAUG.

Club Use Only	Date	Paid	Rcpt #	Memb #	Card Sent
---------------	------	------	--------	--------	-----------

Where TO Find US

# AMIGA Workbench

Print Post Approved, Publication Number PP349018/0016

If Undeliverable, return to  
Amiga Users Group, Inc  
P.O. Box 684E Melbourne, 3001  
Victoria, Australia

SURFACE

MAIL

POSTAGE  
PAID

AUSTRALIA

## AUG Members SPECIAL NOTICE

Please check your membership expiry date on the address label.  
If your membership is due for renewal soon, prompt payment  
would be appreciated. A renewal form is inside the back cover.

PRINTED MATTER ONLY